SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: If the State Government wants to take it up, they can do it.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Sir, during the discussion earlier, our former Education Minister said that there was a proposal to start... (*Interruptions*)...to start such open universities by the Central Education Department even in the southern parts of the country. Based on that particular statement, I am now raising the question whether there is any proposal of the Government of India or the Education Ministry to start such a university in Madras?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, I would like to say something on this supplementary. An open university, although it looks a very easy thing to do, is a much more complicated thing which needs a much more elaborate preparation. So, we have started with one in Delhi. There is no ban or there is no advance denial of similar facilities to other areas in the country provided we plan for these things properly and as my colleague has just pointed out, even where a successful university of this kind is running, they had to prepare for three long years. So, nothing is barred but at the moment we are grappling with the initial teething troubles of this university itself. So, let us see how it starts and they are doing their best to introduce some courses in 1986. It will not be full-fledged in the sense that they will introduce all the courses. Now, coming to courses, naturally the courses are being worked out. But meanwhile if Members have any ideas of any certain special courses which they think are going to be useful to the people, they can certainly tell us and we can pass them on to the Vice-Chancellor and they can consider them.

SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK: Sir, when the Indira Gandhi Open University Bill was passed it was planned that this university will be open to students from all parts of the land and, therefore, for the comprehensive functioning of this university there will be regional centres. May I ask the Minister concerned what arrangements are being made for the regional centres to cater to the students of the east, south and middle of India?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, the jurisdiction of the university is whole of India. Now, once the university starts, how it is going to function in different parts of India effectively is a matter which needs to be planned later. As I said, they are still in the initial stages. They will take some time to take decisions on all these matters. As and when the decisions are taken, we will certainly inform the House.

*327. [*The questioner (Shri Hukmdeo Narayan Yadav) was absent. For answer, vide col. 35-36 infra*].

New National Highways

*328. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO:

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:†

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:—

(a) what is the length of State roads which were included in the list of new national highways during (i) 1980-81, (ii) 1981-82, (iii) 1982-83, and (iv) 1983-84; and

(b) what are the details of these roads?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) and (b) A statement giving the requisite details is laid on the Table of the House.

---

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Usha Malhotra.

Statement

The Broad details of the Length of State highways added to the National Highway system during the period from the year 1980-81 *to* 1983-84.

Sl. No.	National Highway No.	Year of declaration	Name of the route	Length
				(in kms.)
(1)	31C	1980-81	Lateral Road in West Bengal and Assam	235
(2)	51	Do.	Paikan-Tura-Dalu in Assam and Meghalaya.	149
(3)	52	Do.	Baihata-Charali-Tezpur-Bander Dewa-North Lakhimpur-Passighat-Tezu-Sitapani-Saikheaeghat.	850
(4)	52A	Do.	Road Link to Itanagar, Capital of Arunachal Pradesh (Bander Dewa on NH.52 in Assam) and terminating at Itanagar.	25
(5)	53	Do.	Badarpur-Silchar-Jirighat-Imphal	320
(6)	54	Do.	Silchar-Aizwal-Lunglai in Assam and Mizoram.	290
(7)	12	Do.	Extension of NH No. 12 from Jaipur to Biaora	466
(8)	45A	1983-84	Link to Pondicherry (Villupuram to Pondicherry)	40
			TOTAL :	2375

No roads were declared as National Highways during the years 1981-82 and 1982-83.

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: Sir, in the statement which the hon. Minister has referred to only the roads in the eastern region have been brought in. Why has the north-western region, including Himachal Pradesh, been left out when it is also a backward state and of strategic importance? What reply has he to give to the fact that a national highway which is built at both ends, but the central portion of it is missing, *i.e.*, the highway from Pathankot to Mandi-Kulu. The portion from Amritsar to Pathankot has been built and from Mandi to Kulu and upgraded to national highway level. But the middle portion Pathankot to Mandi has been left out. As such it will be simply useless and so will be the entire investment that has been done. As such I would like to know why Himachal Pradesh has been given this step-motherly treatment.

SHRI BANSI LAL: Sir, no State has been given step-motherly treatment. National Highways are not

declared on this basis. They are decided on certain fundamental issues.

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: The middle portion is missing, that is my main concern. The national highway is not complete till the middle portion is completed.

SHRI BANSI LAL: I cannot help it:

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please say, at least, that you will look into it.

SHRI BANSI LAL: Then it becomes a promise or assurance.

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: My plea is that it should be provided.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You must be chivalrous. What is this?

SHRI BANSI LAL: Well, I cannot help it.

श्री बी० सत्य नारायण रेड्डी : मन्त्री जी मैंने जो जवाब दिया है, उसमें जो लिस्ट दी है जो रोड्स नेशनल हाइवे में इन्क्लूड किये गये हैं उस के बारे में मैं मन्त्री महोदय का ध्यान दिलाऊंगा । आन्ध्र प्रदेश एक बहुत बडा स्टेट है, उस में यह कोई जिक्र है कि वहा कोई नेशनल हाइवे को बढ़ाने या सुधारने को इसमें इन्क्लूड किया गया है इसकी क्या बजह है ? कितनी लेंथ ऐसी है जो नेशनल हाइवें में इन्क्लूड करने के काबिल है जिसको इन्क्लूड नहीं किया गया, इसकी क्या वजह है इसको क्यों नहीं इन्कलूड किया गया है ?

श्री बंसी लाल : सभापति महोदय, नेशनल हाइवे स्टेटवाइज डिक्लेयर नहीं किये जाते हैं । नेशनल हाइवेज जरूरत के मुताबिक डिक्लेयर किये जाते हैं ।

SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Sir, Pondicherry because of its proximity to Madras and because of several world-famous institutes and having a port in the southern part of the country is very important. The link road from Pondicherry to Velupuram is in a very bad shape. This is a small road of only 40 kms, according to the statement of the hon. Minister....

MR. CHAIRMAN: In item No. 8 it is provided.

SHRI P. BABUL REDDY: As per the expert committee's opinion, according to the size of Andhra Pradesh State, there should be a national highway upto the extent of 5300 Kms but the present highways are only about 3000 Kms. Is the Government having any plans immediately to augment the length of the national highway in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI BANSI LAL: No Sir.

श्री सत्यपाल मलिक : सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने आपके मंत्रालय को उस आशय में कुछ लिखा है कि उत्तर प्रदेश की कुछ सड़कों को राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग घोषित करें और उनको आप अपने इन्जाम में ले लें क्योंकि उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार उनका ठीक से रखरखाव नहीं कर पा रही है ?

श्री बंसी लाल : जनाब, कई स्टेटों ने लिखा है जिसमे उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने भी लिखा है मगर हमारे पास पैसे की कमी है इसलिए हम नये नेशनल हाइवे ले नहीं सकते हैं ।

Legislation to bring all the Universities under central control

*329. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to initiate legislation to bring all the universities in the country under unified control of the Central Government; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SMT. SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) There is no such proposal.